

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 CU-04

ACDA-19 EB-11 SAB-01 DRC-01 /177 W
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P R 061335Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7632

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO XF

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN-ARAB MATTERS

REF: (A) STATE 024061 (B) BUCHAREST 0446 (NOTAL)

(C) BUCHAREST 0402 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. LATEST DIPLOMATIC RUMORS FURTHER INDICATE
CEAUSESCU MAY VISIT MIDDLE EAST SOON. FRAGMENTARY INFO
AVAILABLE HERE MAY INDICATE THAT ARAB STATES ARE SPLIT
ON WHETHER TO APPLY BOYCOTT PRESSURE TO FORCE CHANGE IN
ROMANIA'S RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. CEAUSESCU'S RECENT
PRIVATELY-EXPRESSED SHIFT IN GOR MIDDLE EAST STANCE TO
ESPOUSE "PALESTINIAN STATE" AND HIS POSSIBLE ME TRIP MAY
REVEAL FAST-BREAKING GOR EFFORT TO FIND WAY TO APPEASE
MILITANT ARABS WHILE RETAINING ISRAEL CONNECTION AND IMAGE
OF CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN ME DIPLOMACY. END SUMMARY.

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2. CEAUSESCU TRAVEL: FURTHER RUMORS HAVE DEVELOPED HERE

OF POSSIBLE CEAUSESCU TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST SOON. FRENCH HAD PRESS REPORT FROM BEIRUT THAT CEAUSESCU WOULD ARRIVE THERE ON FEBRUARY 7. FRENCH COUNSELLOR ASKED ROMANIAN MFA SOURCE ABOUT THIS RUMOR AND WAS TOLD THAT "DATE WAS NOT YET FIXED," THUS IMPLYING THAT RUMOR WAS BASICALLY TRUE. ITALIANS HAVE RUMOR THAT CEAUSESCU PLANNING TO VISIT LEBANON AND SYRIA.

3. ARAB SANCTIONS: IF FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SANCTION QUESTION AMONG NATO COLLEAGUES, ITALIAN COUNSELLOR REPORTED INFO DEVELOPED ELSEWHERE (REF C, PARA 5) THAT MOROCCANS AND EGYPTIANS HAD OPPOSED BOYCOTT OF ROMANIA AT ABU DHABI MEETING. TURKISH COUNSELLOR SAYS HIS INFORMATION IS THAT IRAQ AND SYRIA HAVE BEEN STRONG PROPONENTS OF BOYCOTT. HE SAYS THAT IRAQI AMBASSADOR APPOINTED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT ROMANIA WOULD NOT MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT GOR HAS NOT SEVERED THESE RELATIONS. (COMMENT: IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT GOR EVER GAVE ANY SUCH ASSURANCES ALTHOUGH THIS MAY CONCEIVABLY BE AN IRAQI LINE.) TURKISH COUNSELLOR ADDED THAT SYRIAN AMBASSADOR HAS LEFT SYRIAN EMBASSY HERE IN HANDS OF CHARGE FOR MONTHS BECAUSE OF SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS. (COMMENT: WE CONSIDER TURKISH COUNSELLOR A GENERALLY POOR SOURCE ALTHOUGH HIS INFORMATION ON ARAB POLICIES SHOULD BE A STRONGER POINT.)

4. FON MIN PRIVATELY REITERATES GOR SHIFT ON PALESTINIAN STATE: DURING FEBRUARY 4 DIPLOMATIC DINNER IN HONOR OF FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU, MIXED GROUP OF AMBASSADORS NOTED CEAUSESCU'S STATEMENT AT SATURDAY'S DIPLOMATIC HUNT CALLING FOR CREATION OF "A PALESTINE STATE." MACOVESCU REAFFIRMED THIS LANGUAGE, SHOWING THAT PRESIDENT HAD NOT EMPLOYED IT BY ACCIDENT. HOWEVER, MACOVESCU WAS CAGEY AS TO WHAT AREA THIS PALESTINIAN STATE SHOULD OCCUPY IN ROMANIAN VIEW, SAYING THAT THIS WAS NOT FOR ROMANIA TO DECIDE. ON OTHER HAND, MACOVESCU SAID THAT STATUS OF JERUSALEM WAS DIFFERENT PROBLEM IN ROMANIAN VIEW, IMPLYING A BELIEF THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE PART OF ANY PALESTINIAN STATE. MACOVESCU ALSO SAID THAT HUSSEIN WAS "NOT AGAINST" A PALESTINE STATE IN HIS TALKS HERE LAST WEEK.
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5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THIS RECENT PRIVATELY- STATED SHIFT IN ROMANIAN LINE ON MIDDLE EAST TO ESPOUSE "PALESTINIAN STATE" (RATHER THAN MORE VAGUE FORMULATONS OF PAST ALONG LINES OF "SELF-DETERMINATION") CAME SHORTLY AFTER HUSSEIN VISIT, WE WONDER IF IT IS NOT RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARAB STATES ON ROMANIA.
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